THE PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT ; Before we proceed to the next item on the agenda, let me say that the Dewan-President has been called away suddenly on an important piece of work to Delhi. Before he left for Delhi, he asked me to convey his apologies for not being able to preside over this meeting, and I am conveying his apologies to this House.

Adjournment Motions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I have received notice of four motions for the adjournment of the business of the House. The first motion, which is from Mr. G. Velu Pillai, reads as follows :

"I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the necessity for adopting immediate measures for increasing the production of paddy and other food-stuffs in the State, in view of the fact that the supply of rice from Burma and Siam has been cut off on account of the war situation, and the consequent starvation that may visit the people of the State."

The motion is in order. Has the member the leave of the House?

The House agreed to the motion being admitted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I fix 3-30 P. M. on the 26th March 1942 for the discussion of this motion.

There is another motion on the same matter by Mr. Dominic Joseph. He wants to move.

"For the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the Public apprehension created by war with regard to the inadequate supply of food materials in the country and to consider the measures taken by the Government and the people to cope with this serious situation".

He may speak on the first motion and it is not necessary to take it up separately.

Another motion has been given notice of by Mr. K. Madhavan. It runs as follows :

"I beg leave to move the adjournment of the business on the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the hardships and the helplessness caused to Travancoreans in Burma, F. M. S., and other countries due to enemy action."

Will the Chief Secretary please make his remarks on this subject ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Sir, without going into the merits of the motion handed over to the honourable Deputy President, I may submit to this House that the matter relates to a sphere in respect of which a discussion on the floor of the House may not serve any useful purpose. On the other hand, Government are fully aware of what is contained in that motion and they have taken whatever action is possible on the subject. I may also inform the House that the Dewan, who will be arriving in Delhi this evening, will assuredly get into touch with the Government of India authorities in regard to this matter and do whatever is needed.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : I am glad to note that Government are making every attempt in regard to this matter. So I withdraw this motion.

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